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# **FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION MANAGEMENT REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Reference: House Concurrent Resolution 74

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

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## **INTRODUCTION**

At the direction of House Concurrent Resolution 74 passed by the 2003 Legislature, the Department of Children and Family Services publishes the annual Foster Care and Adoption Management Report. This report details activities in the areas of foster care and adoption in State Fiscal Year 2016 and compares the results to a five-year running average. Data are provided at the state and regional level and by age group, where appropriate and available. This information is provided to the Governor, each Louisiana state legislator, and to the major daily newspapers and network television stations in the following cities: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Monroe and Shreveport.

The data used in this report are extracted from the Tracking, Information and Payment System of the department. Data are derived based on the date the event occurred to allow for consistency with historical review. As a result, these numbers may vary from numbers reported into the Louisiana Performance Accountability System (LaPAS) and other data reported by the Department.

**1a. Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End<sup>1</sup>**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	TOTALS
01	Greater New Orleans	41	48	55	105	249
02	Baton Rouge	28	32	42	105	207
03	Covington	127	180	199	222	728
04	Thibodaux	84	101	137	169	491
05	Lafayette	142	130	142	154	568
06	Lake Charles	102	118	142	148	510
07	Alexandria	70	108	108	135	421
08	Shreveport	121	141	172	196	630
09	Monroe	132	139	172	183	626
99	Location Unknown	2	2	4	3	11
STATE TOTALS		849	999	1,173	1,420	4,441

**1b. Five Year Average of Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End<sup>2</sup>**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON LAST DAY OF SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2012 - 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	51	58	69	134	313
02	Baton Rouge	30	30	39	90	189
03	Covington	126	162	186	247	721
04	Thibodaux	60	78	108	160	405
05	Lafayette	113	138	154	174	580
06	Lake Charles	79	106	121	136	443
07	Alexandria	80	114	124	141	459
08	Shreveport	91	117	152	170	530
09	Monroe	95	132	148	173	548
99	Location Unknown	2	3	5	5	14
STATE AVERAGE		727	939	1,105	1,431	4,202

For Tables 1a and 1b, child's age is calculated as of the last day of the SFY. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

<sup>1</sup> Category "Location Unknown" may refer to cases where children are voluntarily placed in care by their parents or cases where the Court of jurisdiction for the case has not yet been entered.

<sup>2</sup> The presentation of the report suggests that there is a higher number of Pre-Teen/Teens entering custody. However, it should be noted that 8 ages are represented in that category (10-17).

**2a. Number of Children Taken into State Custody**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	TOTALS
01	Greater New Orleans	112	66	74	117	369
02	Baton Rouge	71	54	74	119	318
03	Covington	138	118	151	156	563
04	Thibodaux	105	87	137	134	463
05	Lafayette	168	105	109	125	507
06	Lake Charles	100	68	122	96	386
07	Alexandria	60	40	47	58	205
08	Shreveport	181	172	227	222	802
09	Monroe	139	81	113	106	439
99	Location Unknown	7	6	7	9	29
STATE TOTALS		1,081	797	1,061	1,142	4,081

**2b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Taken into State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2012 - 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	93	75	91	141	400
02	Baton Rouge	57	41	51	93	242
03	Covington	134	106	137	157	534
04	Thibodaux	80	64	100	116	360
05	Lafayette	130	92	100	114	436
06	Lake Charles	88	74	90	85	337
07	Alexandria	86	77	90	95	348
08	Shreveport	148	134	148	174	635
09	Monroe	105	84	98	105	391
99	Location Unknown	5	4	7	8	22
STATE TOTALS		926	750	945	1,088	3,708

For Tables 2a and 2b, child's age is calculated as of the date of entry into DCFS custody. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

**3a. Number of Children Leaving State Custody**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	TOTAL
01	Greater New Orleans	108	84	87	145	424
02	Baton Rouge	67	62	77	115	321
03	Covington	68	136	156	222	582
04	Thibodaux	43	70	111	158	382
05	Lafayette	88	139	128	152	507
06	Lake Charles	45	88	120	110	363
07	Alexandria	34	76	91	78	279
08	Shreveport	120	172	250	236	778
09	Monroe	58	93	123	136	410
99	Location Unknown	7	4	8	10	29
STATE TOTALS		638	924	1,151	1,362	4,075

**3b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Leaving State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2012 - 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	74	84	104	171	432
02	Baton Rouge	43	45	54	97	239
03	Covington	64	128	156	197	545
04	Thibodaux	44	73	103	138	357
05	Lafayette	71	122	133	161	488
06	Lake Charles	45	87	94	105	331
07	Alexandria	38	94	107	115	354
08	Shreveport	93	141	182	192	608
09	Monroe	48	85	98	118	349
99	Location Unknown	6	4	9	9	28
STATE AVERAGE		527	862	1,040	1,303	3,732

For Tables 3a and 3b, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

**4a. Number of Children Adopted Out of State Custody**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	21	22	23	12	78
02	Baton Rouge	8	5	3	0	16
03	Covington	17	62	42	14	135
04	Thibodaux	3	13	13	15	44
05	Lafayette	22	61	49	18	150
06	Lake Charles	12	35	41	15	103
07	Alexandria	6	25	27	5	63
08	Shreveport	17	26	25	13	81
09	Monroe	10	35	39	13	97
99	Location Unknown	1	0	2	0	3
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>770</b>

**4b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Adopted Out of State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION FOR SFY 2012 - 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	18	24	25	12	79
02	Baton Rouge	3	8	4	2	18
03	Covington	14	54	42	16	125
04	Thibodaux	3	24	28	19	74
05	Lafayette	12	47	43	17	119
06	Lake Charles	12	32	28	14	85
07	Alexandria	5	26	21	7	59
08	Shreveport	7	21	19	11	58
09	Monroe	5	23	25	12	65
99	Location Unknown	0	0	1	0	2
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>684</b>

For Tables 4a and 4b, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS Custody. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court. The number of children exiting DCFS custody to a finalized adoption should parallel the number of children entering DCFS custody in each region.

**5a. Number of Children Reunited with Birth Family Out of State Custody**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY IN SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	66	40	41	68	215
02	Baton Rouge	38	33	49	69	189
03	Covington	36	60	83	126	305
04	Thibodaux	32	39	70	83	224
05	Lafayette	46	67	61	73	247
06	Lake Charles	22	44	55	52	173
07	Alexandria	21	42	50	56	169
08	Shreveport	74	104	163	138	479
09	Monroe	43	52	78	68	241
99	Location Unknown	4	4	5	8	21
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>382</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>2,263</b>

**5b. Five Year Average Number of Children Reunited with Birth Family Out of State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY FOR SFY 2012-2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	47	48	60	95	250
02	Baton Rouge	24	23	31	51	130
03	Covington	36	56	82	97	270
04	Thibodaux	32	37	58	72	199
05	Lafayette	43	58	72	72	245
06	Lake Charles	24	43	46	42	155
07	Alexandria	28	55	70	70	223
08	Shreveport	66	93	127	112	398
09	Monroe	38	53	62	61	213
99	Location Unknown	4	3	8	6	20
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>342</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>2,104</b>

For Tables 5a and 5b, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court. The number of children reuniting with their birth family should parallel the number of children entering DCFS custody in each region.



**6a. Number of Children Leaving Foster Care Due to Age<sup>3</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	18
02	Baton Rouge	13
03	Covington	22
04	Thibodaux	19
05	Lafayette	22
06	Lake Charles	9
07	Alexandria	4
08	Shreveport	18
09	Monroe	21
99	Location Unknown	1
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>147</b>

**6b. Five Year Average Number of Children Leaving Foster Care Due to Age**

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE FOR SFY 2012- 2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF YOUTH</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	25
02	Baton Rouge	17
03	Covington	34
04	Thibodaux	17
05	Lafayette	32
06	Lake Charles	14
07	Alexandria	14
08	Shreveport	18
09	Monroe	14
99	Location Unknown	1
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>186</b>

<sup>3</sup> Youth exiting foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday may be exiting into JobCorp, attending college, returning to their birth family, linking to a permanent connection, or independence.

**7a. Number of Cases in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated<sup>4</sup>**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	23	18	21	14	76
02	Baton Rouge	6	3	6	0	15
03	Covington	24	40	35	21	120
04	Thibodaux	14	17	16	11	58
05	Lafayette	28	44	35	13	120
06	Lake Charles	28	39	33	22	122
07	Alexandria	19	29	21	10	79
08	Shreveport	15	26	33	11	85
09	Monroe	22	28	31	15	96
99	Location Unknown	2	0	2	0	4
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>775</b>

**7b. Five Year Average of Number of Children in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY FOR SFY 2012- 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	21	22	22	12	76
02	Baton Rouge	6	4	5	4	19
03	Covington	31	45	33	15	124
04	Thibodaux	10	21	20	20	71
05	Lafayette	21	35	30	13	100
06	Lake Charles	20	28	27	17	92
07	Alexandria	12	25	20	8	65
08	Shreveport	11	20	18	11	60
09	Monroe	9	23	24	11	68
99	Location Unknown	1	0	1	0	2
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>143</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>677</b>

For Tables 7a and 7b, child's age is calculated as of the date the child was freed for adoption. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

<sup>4</sup> This variable is measured by the number of children made available for adoption through any combination of surrenders, terminations of parental rights, and/or death of all parents. A determination was made based on case information that the child was legally available for adoption. While this normally involved a mother and father, there are a significant number of cases with multiple fathers (legal, biological and putative).

**8a. Number of Cases in Which Termination of Rights Was by Court Action<sup>5</sup>**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR IN SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	18	13	15	8	54
02	Baton Rouge	3	0	0	0	3
03	Covington	14	25	24	7	70
04	Thibodaux	6	8	6	2	22
05	Lafayette	12	28	25	9	74
06	Lake Charles	22	36	24	18	100
07	Alexandria	14	17	19	5	55
08	Shreveport	16	22	27	12	77
09	Monroe	13	25	24	12	74
99	Location Unknown	1	0	2	0	3
STATE TOTALS		119	174	166	73	532

**8b. Five Year Average of Number of Cases in Which Termination of Rights Was by Court Action**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR FOR SFY 2012-2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	15	12	16	7	50
02	Baton Rouge	4	1	1	1	6
03	Covington	17	27	19	6	69
04	Thibodaux	6	13	12	11	42
05	Lafayette	15	27	24	10	76
06	Lake Charles	18	27	23	14	82
07	Alexandria	9	17	15	5	45
08	Shreveport	9	17	16	8	50
09	Monroe	6	20	18	8	53
99	Location Unknown	0	0	1	0	1
STATE AVERAGES		100	161	145	69	476

For Tables 8a and 8b, child's age is calculated as of the date the child was freed for adoption. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

<sup>5</sup> This variable measures the number of unduplicated children in which parental rights of at least two parents are terminated by court action.

**9a. Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action<sup>6</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED SFY 2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	60
02	Baton Rouge	16
03	Covington	88
04	Thibodaux	36
05	Lafayette	67
06	Lake Charles	82
07	Alexandria	97
08	Shreveport	50
09	Monroe	53
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>549</b>

**9b. Five Year Average of Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action**

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED FOR SFY 2012 - 2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>5-YEAR AVERAGE</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	56
02	Baton Rouge	13
03	Covington	70
04	Thibodaux	37
05	Lafayette	56
06	Lake Charles	65
07	Alexandria	50
08	Shreveport	39
09	Monroe	39
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>423</b>

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<sup>6</sup> This measure is not captured in the TIPS computer system. The measure is derived from a manual count by the Bureau of General Counsel of the number of petitions filed seeking termination of parental rights. The number of petitions filed is not a count of children or families

**10. Number of Cases in Which the Child has been in State Custody for Longer than Seventeen Months Where DCFS has not Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action**

Data are not available for this measure. The Child Welfare data system does not capture information on the decision to not seek Termination of Rights. The system can be used to determine the number of children who have been in care longer than seventeen months and who do not have a completed Termination of Rights but there are no data elements that provide the ability to distinguish between cases in which court action is in progress, court action was sought and denied, or court action was not sought.

**11. Number of Cases in Which Adoption is Not a Part of the Plan for the Child**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON JUNE 30, 2016 BY GOAL						
REGION		ADOPTION	ALTERNATIVE PERMANENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT	GUARDIANSHIP	RETURN TO HOME OF BIRTH FAMILY	TOTAL ALL GOALS
01	Greater New Orleans	79	9	0	160	248
02	Baton Rouge	16	5	0	185	206
03	Covington	239	27	3	459	728
04	Thibodaux	118	6	0	367	491
05	Lafayette	191	10	0	367	568
06	Lake Charles	184	14	0	312	510
07	Alexandria	220	17	0	184	421
08	Shreveport	125	11	2	492	630
09	Monroe	145	18	0	463	626
99	Location Unknown	1	0	0	10	11
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>1,318</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>4,439</b>

The Child Welfare data system captures one Goal and the field is replaced when the Goal changes without maintaining a history of Goals for the child. In addition, most children in Foster Care have a concurrent goal. The concurrent goal is not captured in the data system. Therefore, data on whether adoption is or was a goal during a point in time in the history of the case is not available. The table above illustrates the children in Foster Care on June 30, 2016 and the goal as it is currently or was at the time of case closure, if the case closed between June 30, 2016 and date of extraction, September 20, 2016.

**12a. Number of Children Available for Adoption and Waiting Placement**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON JUNE 30, 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	3	7	11	17	37
02	Baton Rouge	2	1	4	8	15
03	Covington	9	19	15	13	56
04	Thibodaux	3	9	14	32	58
05	Lafayette	6	15	19	26	66
06	Lake Charles	4	13	19	27	64
07	Alexandria	3	12	15	12	41
08	Shreveport	4	7	8	12	30
09	Monroe	3	8	10	16	38
STATE TOTALS		37	90	115	163	405

**12b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Available for Adoption and Waiting Placement**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON LAST DAY OF SFY FOR SFY 2012 - 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGES
01	Greater New Orleans	4	9	11	20	44
02	Baton Rouge	2	2	3	8	15
03	Covington	9	15	14	10	47
04	Thibodaux	2	10	16	26	54
05	Lafayette	6	16	17	29	69
06	Lake Charles	3	10	16	23	52
07	Alexandria	3	11	13	10	37
08	Shreveport	2	5	6	11	25
09	Monroe	2	8	10	14	34
99	Location Unknown	0	1	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGE		34	85	105	153	378

For Tables 12a and 12b, child's age is calculated as of the last day of the SFY (June 30<sup>th</sup>). Some children included in the above calculations may have an identified adoptive family but an adoption agreement has not been completed. A placement is not considered an adoptive placement for reporting purposes until an agreement to adopt has been finalized. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

**13a. Average Number of Months in State Custody for All Children Who Left Custody during the Year**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING SFY 2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGES 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	4.38	8.82	9.01	14.70	9.74
02	Baton Rouge	3.79	4.55	6.63	6.27	5.51
03	Covington	9.38	18.17	14.81	19.14	16.61
04	Thibodaux	4.47	9.84	8.39	16.04	11.38
05	Lafayette	8.23	16.95	17.79	16.66	15.56
06	Lake Charles	10.76	15.07	15.29	19.30	15.89
07	Alexandria	9.11	17.93	19.26	13.23	15.97
08	Shreveport	5.91	10.15	9.12	12.86	9.99
09	Monroe	7.58	17.39	16.87	18.02	16.06
99	Location Unknown	1.02	0.13	8.06	5.82	4.49
STATE AVERAGES		6.63	13.63	12.88	15.32	12.89

**13b. Five Year Average of the Number of Months in State Custody for All Children Who Left Custody during the Year (SFY 2012-2016)**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE SFY 2012-2016						
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGES ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	5.67	9.91	9.59	15.29	11.23
02	Baton Rouge	3.41	8.9	8.53	13.79	9.81
03	Covington	9.31	17.21	15.32	20.63	16.98
04	Thibodaux	5.45	14.04	14.02	17.61	14.35
05	Lafayette	8.14	17.96	19.39	22.1	18.28
06	Lake Charles	9.26	15.28	15.28	18.32	15.41
07	Alexandria	7.92	15.64	15.65	16.88	15.21
08	Shreveport	4.94	10.43	10.01	13.78	10.52
09	Monroe	6.47	15.34	17.16	18.02	15.55
99	Location Unknown	2.46	10.88	8.98	9.08	7.99
STATE AVERAGES (5 YEARS)		6.63	14.22	14.00	17.44	14.21

For Tables 13a and 13b, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from Foster Care. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

**14a. New Foster Homes Opened<sup>7</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>NEW HOMES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	96
02	Baton Rouge	47
03	Covington	112
04	Thibodaux	70
05	Lafayette	140
06	Lake Charles	83
07	Alexandria	101
08	Shreveport	106
09	Monroe	108
99	Location Unknown	2
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>865</b>

**14b. Five Year Average of New Foster Homes Opened**

<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2012-2016</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>AVG # OF HOMES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	87
02	Baton Rouge	50
03	Covington	110
04	Thibodaux	69
05	Lafayette	102
06	Lake Charles	79
07	Alexandria	65
08	Shreveport	69
09	Monroe	75
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>707</b>

Foster Homes are included in the annual count of new foster homes if they have an initial certification completed during the SFY. Families that leave the program and return within 2 years are not required to complete all initial certification criteria and are not included in this measure.

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<sup>7</sup> The number of new certified foster homes is not reflective of the interest in becoming a foster parent. However, having fewer Home Development staff to perform recruitment and certification activities results in the lower number of newly certified homes.



**15a. Foster Care Homes Housing More Than Four Children in State Custody<sup>8</sup>**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 FOSTER CHILDREN AND NUMBER HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 FOSTER CHILDREN ON JUNE 30, 2016							
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	TOTALS ALL AGES	NUMBER OF HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Baton Rouge	0	0	0	5	5	1
03	Covington	0	0	2	3	5	1
04	Thibodaux	0	1	3	2	6	1
05	Lafayette	4	9	9	16	38	7
06	Lake Charles	1	2	11	2	16	3
07	Alexandria	0	5	5	11	21	4
08	Shreveport	8	20	21	20	69	13
09	Monroe	3	3	6	16	28	6
99	Location Unknown	0	4	2	1	4	0
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>36</b>

**15b. Five Year Average of Foster Care Homes Housing More Than Four Children in State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 CHILDREN AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 FOSTER CHILDREN ON JUNE 30TH SFY 2012-2016							
REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGES ALL AGES	AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	1	3	4	8	16	2
02	Baton Rouge	0	0	0	3	3	1
03	Covington	2	5	9	18	34	7
04	Thibodaux	1	1	5	6	13	2
05	Lafayette	1	5	11	14	32	6
06	Lake Charles	0	2	5	8	15	3
07	Alexandria	1	3	7	15	25	4
08	Shreveport	4	14	19	14	52	10
09	Monroe	4	6	9	12	31	6
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>41</b>

For Tables 15a and 15b, child's age as well as the number of children placed in a foster home is calculated as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Region location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Region location for foster homes is based on the region of the Home Development Unit managing them.

<sup>8</sup> Policy allows for foster families to care for up to 5 children in their home at a given time.

**16a. Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions<sup>9</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30, 2016</b>						
<b>REGION</b>		<b>INFANTS AGE 0-1</b>	<b>YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4</b>	<b>OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9</b>	<b>PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17</b>	<b>TOTAL ALL AGES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	1	0	0	24	25
02	Baton Rouge	0	0	0	22	22
03	Covington	1	0	2	25	28
04	Thibodaux	2	0	2	42	46
05	Lafayette	0	0	1	24	25
06	Lake Charles	1	0	0	34	35
07	Alexandria	1	1	0	18	20
08	Shreveport	2	0	0	19	21
09	Monroe	0	0	1	26	27
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>250</b>

**16b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions**

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30TH OF SFY2012-2016</b>						
<b>REGION</b>		<b>INFANTS AGE 0-1</b>	<b>YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4</b>	<b>OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9</b>	<b>PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17</b>	<b>AVERAGE ALL AGES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	0	0	0	35	35
02	Baton Rouge	0	0	1	27	28
03	Covington	1	0	2	41	44
04	Thibodaux	1	0	1	45	48
05	Lafayette	0	0	1	37	39
06	Lake Charles	0	0	1	29	31
07	Alexandria	0	1	1	21	23
08	Shreveport	1	0	0	27	28
09	Monroe	0	0	1	33	33
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	2
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>310</b>

For Tables 16a and 16b, child's age is calculated as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Region location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Placement setting is based on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Congregate Care Settings include Residential Treatment Facilities, Group Homes, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Psychiatric Hospitals, Medical Hospitals, Supervised Independent Living Facilities, Detention Centers, Emergency Shelter Facilities, Job Corp, Youth Challenge programs, and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. Some congregate care placements are short term and may represent a temporary absence from the child's foster home.

<sup>9</sup> Louisiana has one of the lowest percentages of youth placed in a congregate care setting.

**17a. New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened<sup>10</sup>**

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2016			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	96	70
02	Baton Rouge	47	26
03	Covington	112	83
04	Thibodaux	70	67
05	Lafayette	140	111
06	Lake Charles	83	31
07	Alexandria	101	23
08	Shreveport	106	20
09	Monroe	108	98
99	Location Unknown	2	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>865</b>	<b>864</b>

**17b. Five Year Average of New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened**

AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2012-2016			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	87	65
02	Baton Rouge	50	36
03	Covington	110	94
04	Thibodaux	69	70
05	Lafayette	102	86
06	Lake Charles	79	65
07	Alexandria	65	8
08	Shreveport	70	41
09	Monroe	75	59
99	Location Unknown	0	0
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>707</b>	<b>525</b>

<sup>10</sup> Most foster homes are dually certified as adoptive homes. Dually certified homes are counted in both Foster and Adoptive Homes measures.

# **18. Average Number of Cases Assigned to Each Foster Care Case Manager<sup>11</sup>**

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Foster Care Case Managers				
Region		Foster Care Staff	Foster Care Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	23	213	9.26
02	Baton Rouge	16	183	11.44
03	Covington	62	621	10.02
04	Thibodaux	29	406	14.00
05	Lafayette	51	496	9.73
06	Lake Charles	28	403	14.39
07	Alexandria	36	357	9.92
08	Shreveport	44	574	13.05
09	Monroe	37	568	15.35
99	Location Unknown		10	
<b>State Totals/Average</b>		<b>326</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>11.75</b>

Table 18 reflects the number of children in foster care and not available for adoption on June 30, 2016. Location is organized by removal court region. These children may be placed in another region and assigned to workers in another region.

Average caseload numbers do not accurately reflect caseload amounts. For the first six months, new workers have a lower caseload than veteran workers, which lowers the average. The caseload standard for workers that have completed basic training is 10; however, the caseload range extends up to 25 cases.

<sup>11</sup> The Council on Accreditation Foster Care caseload standard recommends no more than 15 children in foster care or kinship care, and no more than 8 children in treatment foster care.

## 19. Average Number of Cases Assigned to Each Adoption Case Manager<sup>12</sup>

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Adoption Case Managers				
Region		Adoption Staff	Adoption Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	4	35	8.75
02	Baton Rouge	2	24	12.00
03	Covington	5	107	21.40
04	Thibodaux	2	85	42.50
05	Lafayette	6	72	12.00
06	Lake Charles	3	107	35.67
07	Alexandria	4	64	16.00
08	Shreveport	2	56	28.00
09	Monroe	2	58	29.00
99	Location Unknown		1	
<b>State Totals/Average</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>20.30</b>

Table 19 reflects the number of children in foster care and available for adoption on June 30, 2016. Location is organized by removal court region. These children may be placed in another region and assigned to workers in another region.

<sup>12</sup> The Council on Accreditation Adoption caseload standard recommends caseloads that should not exceed 15 children.

**20a. Number of Children Entering Foster Care by Reason for Entering Foster Care<sup>13</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2016<sup>14</sup></b>						
<b>REGION</b>	<b>PRIMARY FOSTER CARE ENTRY REASON</b>	<b>INFANTS AGE 0-1</b>	<b>YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4</b>	<b>OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9</b>	<b>PRE-TEEN/TEEN AGE 10-17</b>	<b>TOTAL ALL AGES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	108	64	67	350
		Physical Abuse	4	2	7	18
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	1
	<b>Greater New Orleans Region Totals</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>369</b>
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0
		FINS	0	0	7	7
		Neglect	67	47	94	276
		Physical Abuse	4	7	16	33
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	2
	<b>Baton Rouge Region Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>318</b>
03	Covington	FINS	0	0	2	2
		Neglect	127	105	136	510
		Physical Abuse	10	7	7	29
		Sexual Abuse	1	6	10	21
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	1	1
	<b>Covington Region Totals</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>563</b>
04	Thibodaux	Neglect	99	79	117	418
		Physical Abuse	6	8	13	38
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	4	7
	<b>Thibodaux Region Totals</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>463</b>
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	155	98	103	452
		Physical Abuse	8	6	13	36
		Sexual Abuse	0	2	8	14
		Surrender By Parent	0	0	1	1
		Voluntary Placement	2	0	0	2
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	2	0	0	2
	<b>Lafayette Region Totals</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>507</b>
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	94	65	85	354
		Physical Abuse	6	2	10	28
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	4
	<b>Lake Charles Region Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>386</b>
07	Alexandria	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	57	37	49	182
		Physical Abuse	3	2	5	15

<sup>13</sup> These charts provide the primary reason a child enters foster care. Some children experience multiple foster care entries in the reporting period. Each foster care entry and the primary reason for the entry are counted. Entry Reasons have been combined into the major child abuse and neglect categories.

<sup>14</sup> Neglect reflects the highest number of entries as this allegation includes the most factors involved in a report.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2016 <sup>14</sup>						
REGION	PRIMARY FOSTER CARE ENTRY REASON	INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	TOTAL ALL AGES
	Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	3	5
	Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	1	1
	Voluntary Placement	0	0	2	0	2
	<b>Alexandria Region Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>205</b>
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0
	Neglect	156	149	177	164	646
	Physical Abuse	22	18	40	26	106
	Sexual Abuse	3	5	10	32	50
	Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
	Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Shreveport Region Totals</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>802</b>
09	Monroe	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1
	Neglect	127	65	98	85	375
	Physical Abuse	11	12	9	16	48
	Sexual Abuse	0	3	6	4	13
	Voluntary Placement	1	1	0	0	2
	<b>Monroe Region Totals</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>439</b>
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	5	5	7	22
	Physical Abuse	1	1	1	1	4
	Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	1	1
	Voluntary Placement/Adoption	1	0	1	0	2
	<b>Location Unknown Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1
	FINS	0	0	0	9	9
	Neglect	995	714	925	951	3,585
	Physical Abuse	75	65	103	112	355
	Sexual Abuse	4	17	31	65	117
	Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	3	3
	Voluntary Placement	3	1	2	1	7
	Voluntary Placement/Adoption	3	0	1	0	4
	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>4,081</b>

**20b. Five Year Average of Number of Children Entering Foster Care by Reason for Entering Foster Care**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2012-2016							
	REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
01	Greater New Orleans	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	86	70	81	127	365
		Physical Abuse	7	4	10	10	30
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	2	3
	Greater New Orleans Region Totals		93	75	91	141	400
02	Baton Rouge	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	52	35	43	75	205
		Physical Abuse	4	5	8	13	30
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	4	5
	Baton Rouge Region Totals		57	41	51	93	242
03	Covington	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		FINS	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	126	95	125	141	487
		Physical Abuse	8	7	8	9	32
		Sexual Abuse	0	3	4	6	14
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	1	0	0	0	1
	Covington Region Totals		134	106	137	157	534
04	Thibodaux	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	73	58	90	100	321
		Physical Abuse	6	5	7	10	27
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	6	10
		Surrender By Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	Thibodaux Region Totals		80	64	100	116	360
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	118	86	90	101	395
		Physical Abuse	9	5	6	8	28
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	5	10
		Surrender By Parent	1	0	0	0	1
		Voluntary Placement	1	0	0	0	1
	Lafayette Region Totals		130	92	100	114	436



AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2012-2016							
	REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
06	Lake Charles	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	83	68	79	71	301
		Physical Abuse	5	5	8	8	26
		Sexual Abuse	0	2	2	6	10
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Lake Charles Region Totals</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>337</b>
07	Alexandria	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	82	73	84	82	321
		Physical Abuse	4	3	4	6	16
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	6	9
		Surrender By Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	1	0	1
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Alexandria Region Totals</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>348</b>
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	1	0	1	2
		Neglect	123	108	132	123	485
		Physical Abuse	23	21	34	28	106
		Sexual Abuse	2	4	12	22	41
		Surrender By Parent	0	0	0	1	1
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	1	1
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Shreveport Region Totals</b>		<b>148</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>635</b>
09	Monroe	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	91	68	76	80	314
		Physical Abuse	12	15	19	19	65
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	4	5	11
		Surrender By Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Monroe Region Totals</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>391</b>
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	5	3	6	6	19
		Physical Abuse	0	1	1	1	3
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	1	1
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	1	0	1	1	3
	<b>Location Unknown Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	0	1	1	4	6
		FINS	0	0	0	2	2
		Neglect	838	664	806	906	3,214

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2012-2016							
	REGION		INFANTS AGE 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGE 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGE 5-9	PRE-TEEN/ TEEN AGE 10-17	AVERAGE ALL AGES
		Physical Abuse	77	70	104	111	363
		Sexual Abuse	5	14	31	62	112
		Surrender By Parent	2	0	0	1	4
		Voluntary Placement	1	0	1	1	4
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	2	0	1	1	4
<b>State Totals</b>			<b>925</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>3,708</b>

For Tables 20a and 20b, child's age is calculated as of date of entry into Foster Care. Region is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Primary Foster Care entry reasons for court ordered entries reflect the action or inaction on the part of the parent that contributed to an unsafe environment for the child. There are four categories of abuse/neglect associated with court ordered placement into DCFS custody. These are Emotional Maltreatment, Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse. Several types of abuse or neglect fall under each of these categories. Some children enter DCFS custody by a voluntary plan made by the parent. Voluntary Foster Care entry may occur when a parent experiences a crisis, such as parental hospitalization when no one else is available to the parent to care for the child. A child may also enter DCFS custody by voluntary placement when the parent intends to surrender the child for adoption or the parents complete a surrender of the child for adoption.

## **Activities to Recruit New Foster and Adoptive Homes**

- DCFS Management Team and Staff develop partnerships with faith-based and private community partners statewide to assist with recruiting prospective foster/adoptive families.
- Utilization of and agency collaboration with AdoptUSKids (a service of the Children's Bureau and the Adoption Exchange Association) to: photo-list children who are without an identified adoptive family; recruit families nationwide that express interest in becoming a certified foster/adoptive parent; and introduce certified adoptive families from other states to Louisiana's children who are awaiting a permanent family.
- Utilization of television and radio appearances/interviews in local media markets throughout the state to recruit and promote foster/adoptive parenting.
- Display and distribution of recruitment materials to the general public at conferences, public forums, community events, etc.
- Involvement of staff and foster/adoptive parents in speaking at community meetings and church events to increase public awareness of the need for foster/adoptive families.
- Develop and implement regional recruitment plans annually to address overall agency placement needs at the local level.
- Conduct adoption exchange meetings involving DCFS adoption and home development staff and community members. Information is shared regarding foster children awaiting adoptive placement, especially older youth and special needs children, with resource families willing to adopt our children with challenging behaviors. These exchange meetings also provide a forum for ideas and innovation in the areas of general, targeted and child specific recruitment.
- Utilization of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Focused Recruitment Model. DCFS was awarded two grants through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The model's child focused approach is to assist with recruitment for older youth, children with special needs and large sibling groups without an identified adoptive resource.
- Utilization of a statewide Heart Gallery through a partnership with local churches. This promotes the use of professional photos and strength-based profiles of children awaiting an adoptive family.

### **Activities to Improve the Rate of Placement in Adoptive Homes**

- Ongoing public/private agency and faith-based partnerships to enhance and provide ongoing support for recruitment of foster/adoptive families for DCFS children available for adoption.
- Provide interested certified adoptive families with information on available pre- and post- adoption services.
- Ongoing cooperative effort and involvement with Louisiana Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project. This effort is aimed at identifying and overcoming barriers within the court system that may hinder the achievement of child permanency in a timely manner, to include the permanency option of foster care adoption.
- Use of purchase of service agreements with private child placing agencies within Louisiana and in other states in an effort to overcome geographic barriers and to expedite adoptive placements, services, and adoption finalizations across geographical boundaries.
- Plan, coordinate and host Louisiana's adoption reception at the Governor's mansion to publicly honor and acknowledge those families who have adopted a foster child or children during the previous federal fiscal year. The celebration is held annually in November and in conjunction with many regionally based recruitment activities in recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month. Salient among these is the release to local media statewide of the Governor's proclamation declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month in Louisiana and local coverage of smaller regional events held statewide in celebration and promotion of foster care adoption.
- Provide liaison support to the Louisiana Foster/Adoptive Parent Association. Louisiana foster parents constitute the single largest adoptive resource for Louisiana foster children.
- Maintain DCFS website, which includes adoption related links and features, on a rotating basis, foster children available for adoption and in need of permanent placement.

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APPENDIX:  
House Concurrent Resolution No. 74  
Regular Session, 2003